

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01

PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SIL-01 LAB-04 /136 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5815

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK GW

SUBJECT: "INVASION" GIVES BOOST TO FISHERIES AGREEMENT FOES

1. SUMMARY. ICELANDIC EMOTIONS OVER FISHERIES ISSUE REACHED NEW PEAK YESTERDAY AS RESULT OF UK DECISION TO SEND IN WARSHIPS AND SIMULTANEOUS PUBLIC RELEASE OF CONTROVERSIAL NEW DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH FRG. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS HAVE DENOUNCED UK ACTION, WHICH, UNHAPPILY FOR GOI, CAME IN MIDST OF CABINET EFFORTS TO SHORE UP PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR TERMS
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REACHED IN BONN. OPPONENTS OF FISHERIES ACCORDS WITH FOREIGNERS

HAVE SEIZED ON BOTH DEVELOPMENTS AS RALLYING POINTS FOR SCHEDULED NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST NOVEMBER 27. END SUMMARY.

2. GOI HAS FORMALLY PROTESTED SENDING OF BRITISH WARSHIPS INTO DISPUTED FISHERIES WATERS. PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON SAID ACT REPRESENTED UNLAWFUL USE OF FORCE AND "CONTRAVENED UK COMMITMENTS AS NATO MEMBER AND CSCE SIGNATORY." HE SAID NO NEW FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK WERE POSSIBLE WHILE WARSHIPS WERE IN AREA AND THAT COAST GUARD WOULD CONTINUE TO PROTECT ICELAND'S WATERS. IN REPLY TO INTERVIEWER'S QUESTION, PM SAID THAT BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO BRITISH MOVE THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE. HALLGRIMSSON ALSO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT NATURAL FOR MATTER TO BE RAISED IN NATO. OLAFUR JOHANNESSON, CHAIRMAN OF COALITION PARTNER PROGRESSIVE PARTY, CALLED BRITISH DECISION "STUPID" AND PREDICTED LONG COD WAR AS RESULT OF UK "OBSTINACY AND UNREASONABLENESS."

3. IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT EFFECT SENDING OF BRITISH WARSHIPS WILL HAVE ON PROSPECTS FOR RATIFICATION OF FRG AGREEMENT. THERE ARE OPPOSING VIEWS WITHIN COUNTRY. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT UK ACTION WILL HEIGHTEN NATIONALISTIC EMOTIONS AND CONTRIBUTE TO HARDENING OF ALREADY POWERFUL OPPOSITION TO ALL AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGNERS. ALTHOUGH GOI COALITION PARTNERS ARE STILL PUSHING FOR RATIFICATION OF FRG AGREEMENT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT IS BECOMING SHALLOW. THE MORE TIME DRAGS ON BEFORE FINAL ALTHING ACTION THE MORE DANGER THERE WILL BE ON EROSION OF SUPPORT. ALTHING DEBATE NOW SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW WITH NO FIRM DATE SET FOR VOTE.

4. TO OPPONENTS OF FISHERIES PACTS WITH FOREIGNERS, UK "INVASION" IS SHOT IN ARM. NEWLY FORMED JOINT COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS HAD ALREADY CALLED FOR NOVEMBER 27 DAY OF PROTEST AND MASS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST AGREEMENT WITH BONN WHEN NEWS OF UK DECISION ANNOUNCED. PROTEST ORGANIZERS, WHO ARE URGING ALL ICELANDERS TO WALK OFF JOBS TOMORROW, CAN NOW CAPITALIZE ON OUTRAGE RESULTING FROM DISPATCH OF WARSHIPS. BJORN JONSSON, PRESIDENT OF ICELANDIC FEDERATION, ONE OF RALLY SPONSORS, SAID THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO MOUNT ANY SORT OF DISORDERLY PROTEST BUT ONLY TO SHOW TO GOVERNMENT NATION'S OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION TO GOI FISHERIES POLICY.

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